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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 08TRIPOLI480, BUSINESS IS POLITICS: MARKS & SPENCER DRAMA TIED TO FATE OF

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags `#cablegate` and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. `#08TRIPOLI480`.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08TRIPOLI480	2008-06-18 12:45	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Tripoli

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/wikileaks-files/libya-wikileaks/>

VZCZCXRO2277
OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHKUK RUEHROV
DE RUEHTRO #0480/01 1701245
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O P 181245Z JUN 08
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3556
INFO RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RUHEEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 4062

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TRIPOLI 000480

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/MAG; COMMERCE FOR NATE MASON

EO 12958 DECL: 6/18/2018
TAGS ECON, EINV, KBCT, PGOV, UK, LY
SUBJECT: BUSINESS IS POLITICS: MARKS & SPENCER DRAMA TIED TO FATE OF
PROMINENT LIBYAN BUSINESSMAN

REF: A) TRIPOLI 349, B) 07 TRIPOLI 297
TRIPOLI 00000480 001.2 OF 002

CLASSIFIED BY: Chris Stevens, CDA, U.S. Embassy Tripoli, Dept of State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: In Libya, major business deals are both political and personal. The ongoing drama surrounding efforts by the U.K. government & THE TRAVALS OF "MARKS & SPARKS" CONTINUE

¶2. (C) UK retailer Marks & Spencer (M&S), affectionately referred to in the U.K. as "Marks & Sparks", opened a location in Tripoli in April th GOL ADOPTS REPUGNANT ANTI-SEMITIC TACTICS

¶3. (C) The Libyan government's public narrative has taken the form of persistent anti-Semitic rhetoric alleging that the company is a "Zionist

¶4. (C) The Chamber also voiced its disapproval of a recent stop at the M&S store by the visiting U.K. Trade Minister. According to the stateme HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?

¶5. (C) In typical fashion, while the GOL's public criticism has comprised pseudo-populist rhetoric against "the forces of Zionism", the crux c TRIPOLI 00000480 002.2 OF 002 man" in a meeting of the Libyan Businessmens' Council to discuss private sector reform. Another member of Libya's business elite described XXXX AND HOW DOES IT END?

¶6. (C) According to a well-placed embassy XXXXXXXXXXXX contact, there is a genuine threat that state security officials may visit personal har

¶7. (C) Comment: The ongoing drama of M&S illustrates the confluence of the personal and the political in a commercial climate in which senior